Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MILI, MARR, CA

SUBJECT: GOOSE BAY PRESS RELEASE

REF: OTTAWA 18

1. WASHINGTON AGENCIES HAVE REVIEWED SUGGESTED CANADIAN PRESS RELEASE ON GOOSE BAY AS CONTAINED REFTEL AND HAVE MADE SEVERAL MINOR MODIFICATIONS. REVISED TEXT FOLLOWS:

"THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, THE HONORABLE ALLAN J. MACEACHEN, TODAY ANNOUNCED THAT THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT HAS AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO A REQUEST OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO RETAIN A SMALL MILITARY UNIT AT GOOSE BAY WHEN THE USAF STRATEGIC AIR COMMAND WING THERE IS WITHDRAWN LATER THIS YEAR. THE ROLE OF THIS NEW USAF UNIT WOULD BE TO MAINTAIN AIRCRAFT SERVICING AND FUELING FACILITIES FOR DAY-TO-DAY TRANSIT USE AND TO SUPPORT NATO/NORAD ACTIVITIES IN TIMES OF EMERGENCY. THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DETAILED ARRANGEMENTS TO GOVERN THE PRESENCE OF THIS UNIT

WILL BE SET OUT IN AN AGREEMENT TO BE WORKED OUT BY REPRESENTATIVES OF INTERESTED AGENCIES OF THE TWO GOVERNMENTS.

"IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT THE NEW UNIT AT GOOSE BAY WILL CONSIST OF APPROXIMATELY TEN USAF PERSONNEL WITH THE

MAJOR SUPPORT REQUIREMENTS BEING MET BY A CIVILIAN CONTRACTOR. THE CONTRACTOR MAY EMPLOY APPROXIMATELY 50-100 CANADIAN CIVILIANS TO PERFORM SUCH TASKS AS AIRCRAFT SERVICING, ENROUTE MAINTENANCE, TANK FARM AND REFUELING SYSTEM MAINTENANCE AND SUPPLY SUPPORT. DETAILS OF THE CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE DETERMINED OVER THE COMING MONTHS. OTHER SERVICES REQUIRED WILL BE NEGOTIATED WITH CANADIAN GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AT GOOSE BAY, I.E., THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT, THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND THE DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE."

2. YOU ARE REQUESTED TO TRANSMIT ABOVE TEXT TO EXTAFF AND, ASSUMING IT ACCEPTABLE TO GOC, URGE EARLY COORDINATED RELEASE IN VIEW OF FACT THAT PERSONNEL ACTIONS ARE SOON TO BE TAKEN INVOLVING NEWFOUNDLAND DIRECT HIRES AT GOOSE BAY. WE ARE PREPARED FOR RELEASE AS EARLY AS FRIDAY, JANUARY 9. PLEASE INFORM US OF GOC REACTION. KISSINGER

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